

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 22-40, 42-60 and 62-80 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/022163. In addition, claims 4-6 have been amended above, but not for any reason relating to patentability thereof. New claim 81 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-21, 41, 61 and 81 are now under consideration in the above-identified application. The amendments to the claims and the addition of new claims conform the pending claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules, and do not add new matter to the application. In addition, the specification has been amended to claims priority from PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/024766 in addition to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/492,210, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(2).

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/024766 includes an International Search Report, dated March 24, 2005, a copy of which is included. The Search Report includes a list of document(s) that have been considered by the Examiner in the underlying PCT application.

Enclosed herewith, please also find a copy of the PCT Written Opinion for the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/US2004/024766, also dated March 24, 2005.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 1, 2006

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